

 Songbirds

Phonics

No Milk Today



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Reading
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Talk together

Ask the child to

- Point to each letter pattern in the box on the back cover and say the sound that it makes in words. Tell the child that some of these letter patterns can make the same sound. Stress that some letter patterns can make more than one sound.
- Look out for these letter patterns in the story and try to remember the sound they make.

Read the story

Remember, children learn best when reading is relaxed and enjoyable so give lots of praise.

- Encourage the child to try to read any words he/she does not recognise by saying the sounds of each letter pattern separately (e.g. *G-r-ee-n*), then running the sounds together quickly. If the child finds it difficult to say the sounds, say the sounds for him/her first, then see if he/she can hear the word.
- Explain that it is important when running the sounds together in a word, to check to see if it sounds like a real word as some words are less regular (e.g. *was*). Read these words to the child if he/she does not recognise them. Point out the letters that make the usual sound in each word (e.g. the *w* in *was*). This will help the child to remember these words.

See inside back cover for other activities.

Mr and Mrs Green's cat was hungry.



"Stop that noise!" said Mr Green.



"She just wants some milk," said Mrs Green.



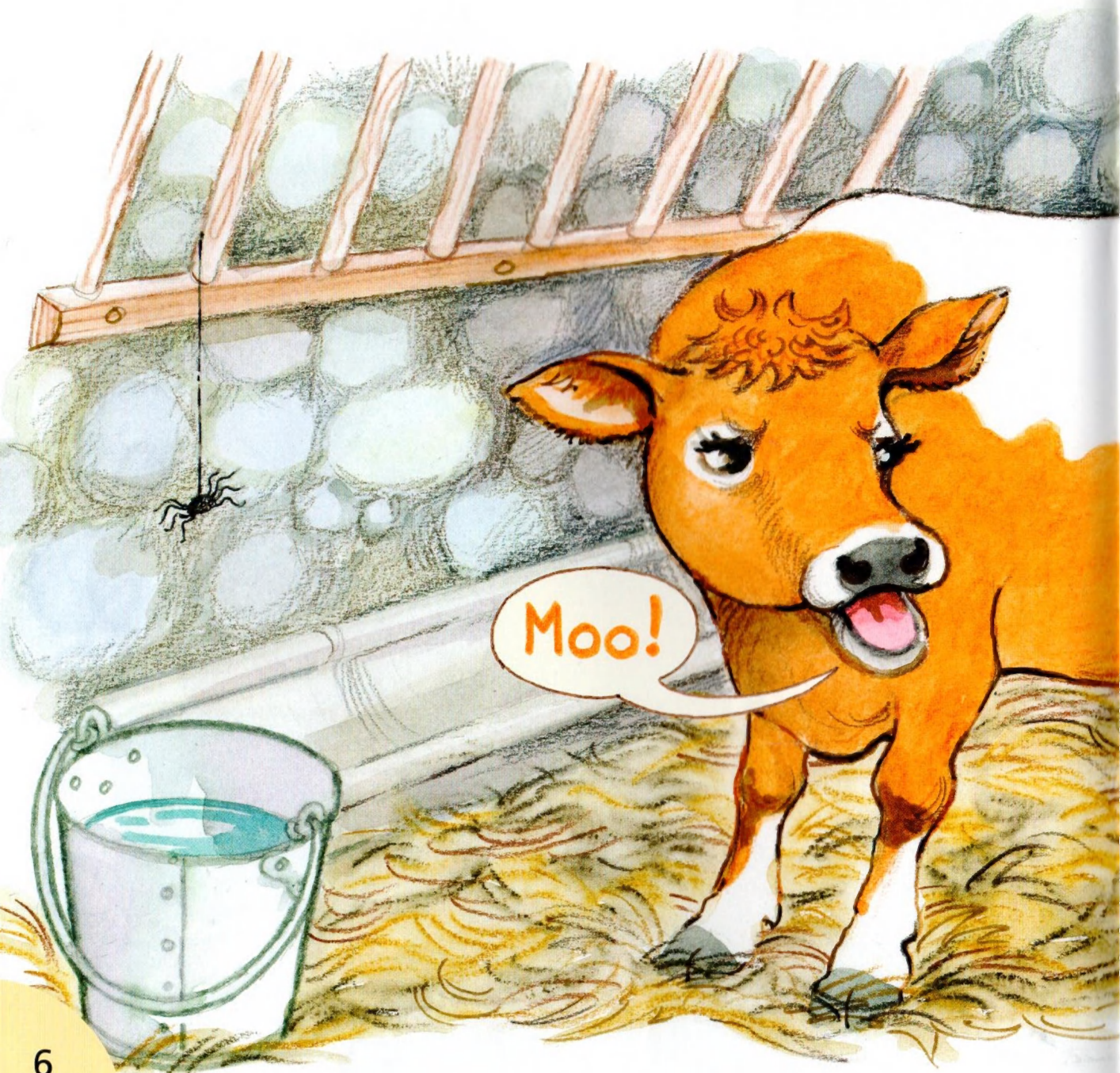
But the milk jug was empty.



"I will go and milk the cow," said Mrs Green.



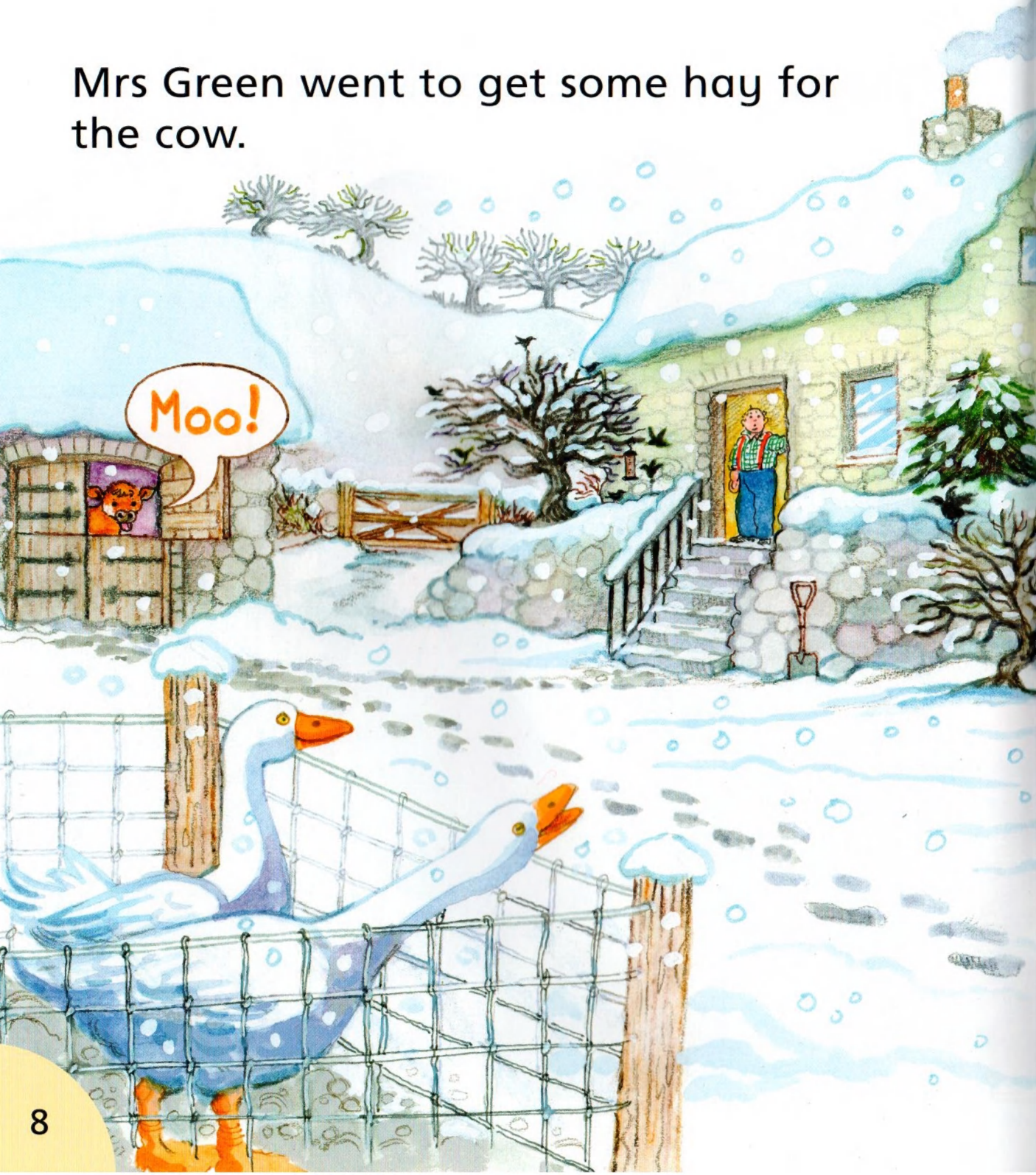
But the cow would not give any milk.



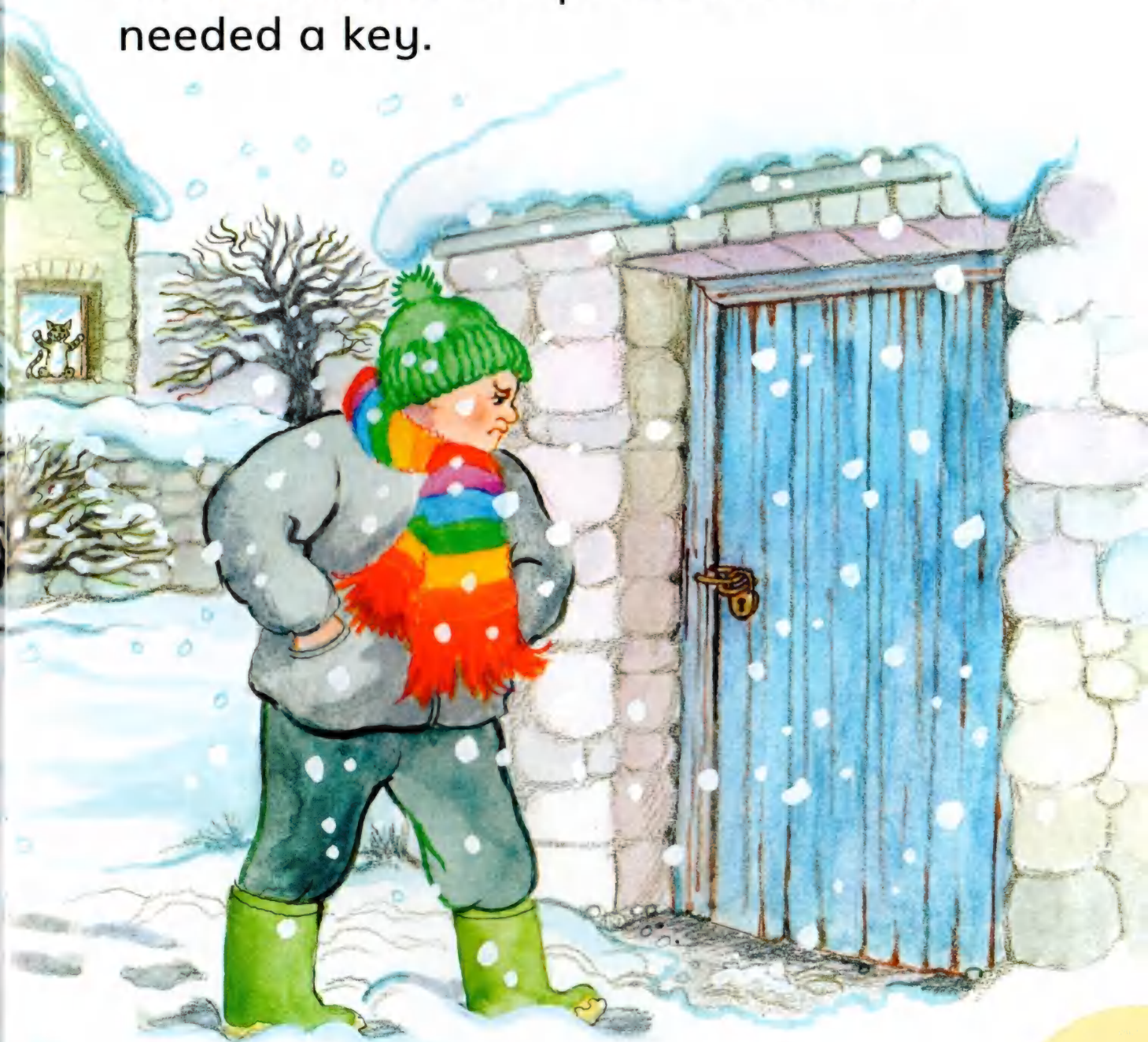
"She's hungry too," said Mrs Green.



Mrs Green went to get some hay for the cow.



But she could not open the shed. She needed a key.



"Give me the key to the shed," said Mrs Green to Mr Green.



But Mr Green said, "I can't. I dropped
it in the snow."



"Go and dig the key out of the snow," said Mrs Green.



"I will get some wool from
sheep," said Mrs Green. But
the sheep would not stand still



socks," said
e could not find



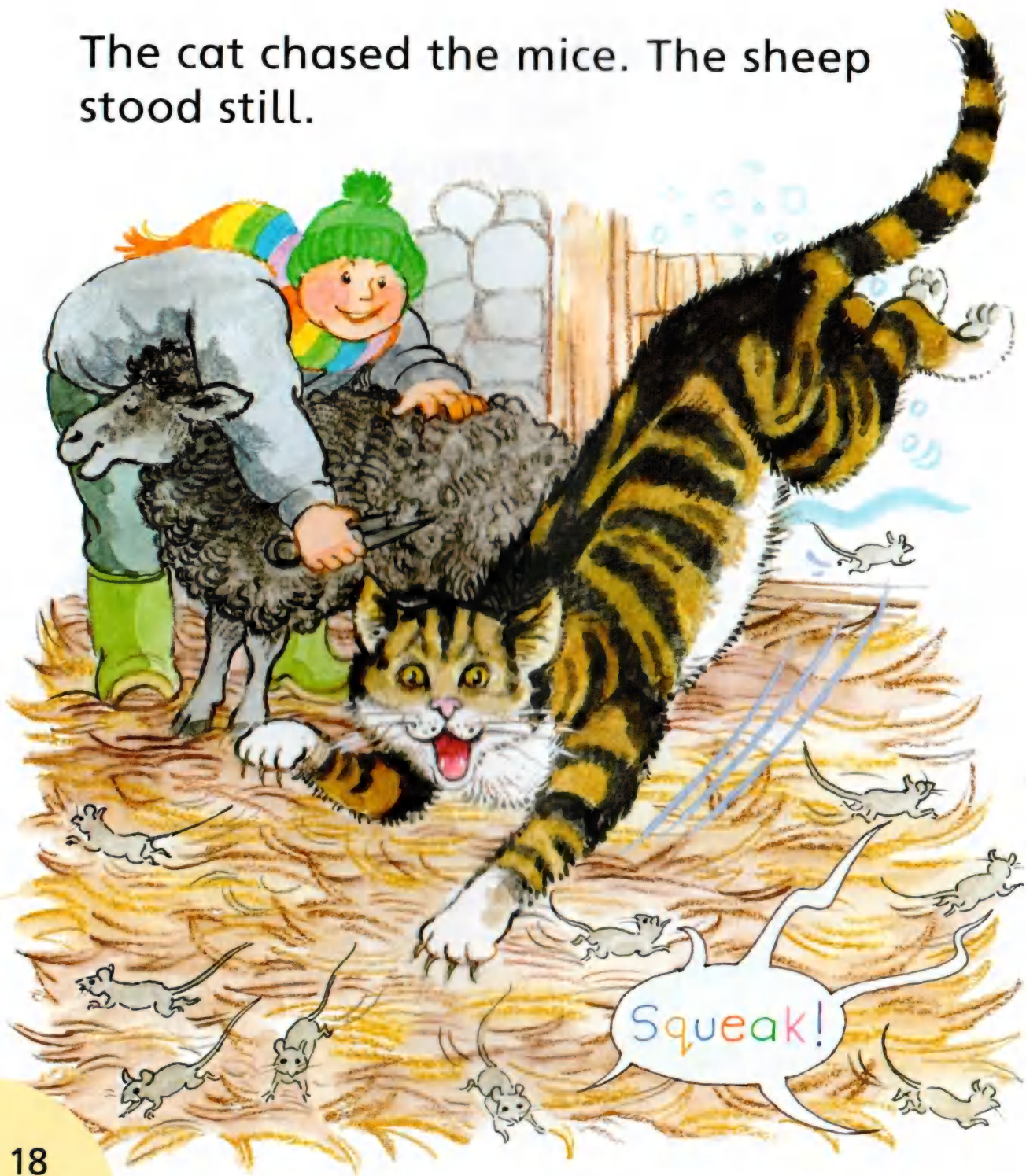
So Mrs Green got the cat



any mice running
t the cat to chase the
Mrs Green.



The cat chased the mice. The sheep
stood still.



Mrs Green got some wool. She mended
Mr Green's socks.



Mr Green dug in the snow. He found the key to the shed.



Mrs Green got the hay.



Mrs Green fed the cow. The cow gave her some milk.



"Now I can feed the cat," said Mrs Green.



But the cat was asleep!



Check comprehension

Ask the child

- Who are the characters in the story? (Mr and Mrs Green, the cat, cow, sheep and mice.)
- Who was hungry? (the cat)
- Why did Mrs Green need the key to the shed? (To get some hay to feed the cow so that she could milk the cow and feed the cat.)

Check phonics (letter-pattern sounds)

Ask the child to

- Read pages 20 and 21. Find some words which contain a long vowel sound (*Green, snow, he, found, key, to, moo, hay*). Point to the letter pattern that makes the long vowel sound in the words (ee, ow, e, ou, ey, o, ay).
- Read pages 23 and 24. Find some more words which contain a long vowel sound (*now, I, feed, asleep*). Point to the letter pattern that makes the long vowel sound in the words (ow, i, ee).

Example phonic words: Green needed feet freeze sheep feed asleep hungry empty she he I my find mice go open show holes hay away chase gave moo too to wool stood would could cow now out around found noise

Context words: any can't chased dropped for give have her key many Mr Mrs said some the there wants was were